

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

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SUBJECT: AUSTRO-SOVIET ONE-YEAR DELIVERY CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL
SOVIET GAS DELIVERIES IN CY1976

REF: 75 VIENNA 7479

1. LATE IN DECEMBER 1975, THE AUSTRIAN OIL ADMINISTRATION (OEMV) SIGNED A CONTRACT IN MOSCOW WITH SOYUZNEFTEEKSPORT WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE DELIVERY OF AN ADDITIONAL 900 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF SOVIET NATURAL GAS TO AUSTRIA IN CY1976. TOTAL QUANTITY OF SOVIET GAS TO BE SHIPPED TO AUSTRIA IN 1976 WILL THUS RUN TO ABOUT 2.65 BILLION CUBIC METERS. THIS ADDITIONAL GAS SHOULD HELP TO REDUCE AN EXPECTED GAP IN AUSTRIAN NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES WHICH HAD BEEN EXPECTED UNTIL DELIVERIES UNDER THE SECOND AND THIRD LONG-TERM SUPPLY CONTRACTS WITH THE USSR COMMENCE IN 1978.

2. THE PRICE FOR THE 900 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF NATURAL GAS FREE AUSTRIAN BORDER WILL BE DETERMINED BY SAME PRICE INDEX APPLICABLE TO OTHER AUSTRIAN IMPORTS OF SOVIET GAS.

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ONLY REPRESENTATIVES EXPECT THAT PRICE FOR 1976

DELIVERIES WILL BE CLOSE TO AS 831.60 (CURRENTLY ABOUT US\$45.26) PER 1,000 CUBIC METERS OF NATURAL GAS.

3. AUSTRIA HAS BEEN SEEKING TO INCREASE ITS NATURAL GAS IMPORTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. THUS, WE UNDERSTAND, THAT WHEN SOVIETS OFFERED THIS ADDITIONAL QUANTITY OF GAS TO AUSTRIA ON SHORT NOTICE, OWMV REACTED PROMPTLY AND SIGNED THE CONTRACT WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

4. SINCE OEMV WILL BE UNABLE TO SEEL ENTIRE ADDITIONAL QUANTITY OF NATURAL GAS TO PROVINCIAL GAS DISTRIBUTORS IN 1976, IT PLANS TO STORE SUBSTANTIAL PART 900 MILLION CUBIC METERS BY INJECTING IT INTO NATURAL UNDERGROUND STORAGE FACILITIES. BUCHANAN

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